



## FLOOD IN NORTH, NORTHEAST Many yet to get relief materials

STAR REPORT

Flood-hit people in different regions are going through hard times with little access to food and drinking water as many of them are yet to get the government relief materials.

Many have taken shelter on dykes, roads and flood centres with their livestock and valuables as their houses have been washed away and crops have been damaged.

Government officials in most of the districts said they have already allocated rice, dry food, cash and other relief materials that would be distributed within a day or two.

In Jamalpur, over 1.5 lakh of six upazilas have been marooned due to the flood. Many of them have claimed they did not receive any relief from the government.

Dewanganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Sultana Razia, however, said the local administration has provided masks, soap, saline and emergency medicines among the flood-hit people to contain the spread of coronavirus.

In Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, over 3.5 lakh people in 14 upazilas of the two districts have been hit hard by the flood. They are in dire need of food and drinking water.

A portion of the water development board's dam on the right bank of Dharla River was washed away by floodwaters in Kurul area of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

The district administrations allocated rice and cash for the victims, but the distribution was yet to be started, said district administration officials.

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A groom (wearing a turban) and his relatives waiting at a boat in front of the bride's house in Hatbari Char in Bogura's Shariakandi upazila yesterday. The wedding date was fixed before the flood. The groom's side decided not to reschedule and go through with the ceremony despite the flood and the pandemic.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

## Rohingya return pushed into further uncertainty

*Analysts cite conflict escalation in Myanmar*

PORIMOL PALMA

Escalation of conflicts between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army, a rebel group seeking greater autonomy for ethnic Rakhine people, is pushing the Rohingya repatriation further into uncertainty, analysts say.

The conflicts have already left thousands displaced while more began fleeing homes in Rakhine state last week.

In such a situation, the international focus could be shifted to the conflicts from the Rohingya crisis and Myanmar may use it as a pretext for not repatriating the Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh, said the analysts.

Thousands of villagers fled their homes as the military last week launched an offensive against the Arakan Army (AA) in five villages in Rathedaung Township of Rakhine, based on information that the villages harboured AA fighters, the Myanmar Times reported.

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### FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

## First budget presented



Iqbal Athar, former Pakistani ambassador to Sweden who quit his job last year protesting Pakistani atrocities in Bangladesh, calls on Bangabandhu at his official residence on June 30, 1972.

June 30, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### BUDGET FOR RECONSTRUCTION

Finance Minister Tajuddin Ahmad presents to the nation today the first budget of Bangladesh. He describes it as the budget for development, rehabilitation and reconstruction which seeks to narrow the gap between lower and higher income groups, revitalise rural economy, achieve self-sufficiency in food production, increase growth rate, and ensure equitable distribution keeping in the forefront the task of laying the foundations of a socialist society.

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### DMCH SPENDING

## Tk 20cr for food, transport abnormal

*PM says in JS; probe launched*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government was investigating the expenditure of Tk 20 crore for accommodation, food, and transportation of Dhaka Medical College Hospital health workers who are directly involved in treating Covid-19 patients.

Speaking in parliament during the discussion on the finance bill, she said the government has taken measures to ensure the services for doctors, nurses, and other health workers for free.

"The cost of Tk 20 crore in a medical college for accommodation and food seems to be a bit abnormal. Therefore, we are investigating the matter. We will take measures if

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## 'Megafash' 700km-long lightning bolt sets record



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A single flash of lightning, over 709km (440 miles) long has set a new distance record, the World Meteorological Organisation has confirmed.

The "megafash" stretched from north eastern Argentina, across southern Brazil and over the Atlantic Ocean.

Also confirmed was a separate bolt which beat the record for the longest duration for a single lightning flash. Both the records were verified with new satellite lightning imagery technology, the WMO said.

Both of them more than double the previous records measured in the United States of America and France.

The WMO said the new distance record was set

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## Defence secy dies from Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, senior secretary at the defence ministry, died from Covid-19 at the Combined Military Hospital in the capital yesterday.

He was 57. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Mohsin breathed his last at 9:35am, Bhasani Mirza, administrative officer at the ministry, told The Daily Star.

He was admitted to

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### PRAYER TIMING JUNE 30

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-17  
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-57 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

### MONEY LAUNDERING

## CID sues AL GS, his brother in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The Criminal Investigation Department has filed a case against former Faridpur town unit Awami League general secretary and his brother in connection with siphoning off Tk 2,000 crore abroad.

SM Miraj Al Mahmud, a CID inspector, lodged the case against AL leader Sajjad Hossain alias Barkat and his brother Imtiaz Hasan alias Rubel, former president of Faridpur Press Club, under the money laundering act with Kafrul Police Station in the capital on Friday.

Meanwhile, Faridpur district AL and the press club relived the two from their respective posts after they were recently arrested on charges of attacking the house of Subal Chandra Saha, president of Faridpur AL.

Imtiaz Ahmed, deputy inspector general of CID,

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People leaving the capital after being unable to make ends meet due to job loss amid the pandemic. The families in the photo were about to board a Lalmonirhat-bound bus from the capital's Gabtol area yesterday morning.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## CORONAVIRUS IN US 'Window closing' for halting spread

*Warns health secretary; top immunologist warns vaccine may not produce herd immunity in US*

AGENCIES

The US health secretary warned that the window to halt the spread of coronavirus across America was closing after a clutch of southern states reported record increases in cases.

The US has now registered 2.5m cases and more than 125,000 deaths from the disease — a quarter of the 10m infections and half a million fatalities around the world, despite the country comprising little more than 4 percent of the global population.

While Los Angeles, Chicago and New York remain the hardest-hit cities, US health and human services secretary Alex Azar said cases were "surging" in southern parts of the country.

Several of these states emerged early from lockdown against federal guidelines that recommend phased openings only once a state has recorded a fortnight-long reduction in cases.

"The window is closing," Azar told Meet the Press on Sunday. He urged individual states to boost community-wide testing and collect blood plasma donated by patients who have recovered from the virus to bolster available treatments.

"We have to act, and people as individuals have to act, responsibly. We need to social distance, we need to wear our face coverings."

The US state of California was the latest authority to re-impose restrictions, ordering bars in Los Angeles and six

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